

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

SP-02 PRS-01 SAJ-01 EB-03 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 MC-01 PM-03

DODE-00 OMB-01 DHA-02 L-01 SIL-01 /059 W

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R 231910Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7145

INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 02295

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR YO

SUBJECT: FRENCH-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. DURING COURTESY CALL JANUARY 19
NEW YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR RADOMIR RADOVIC TOLD AMBASSADOR
RUSH WITH EVIDENT SATISFACTION THAT YUGOSLAV-FRENCH
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RELATIONS, WHICH HAD BEEN RATHER COOL FOR CONSIDERABLE

TIME, WERE NOW QUICKLY IMPROVING. YUGOSLAV PRIMIN
BJEDIC'S VISIT TO FRANCE IN FEBRUARY WILL BE FIRST
MANIFESTATION OF THE CHANGING RELATIONSHIP. QUAI HAS
CONCURRENTLY GIVEN US SAME IMPRESSION WITH FOLLOWING
ADDITIONAL DETAILS. END SUMMARY.

2. QUAI'S OFFICER IN CHARGE EASTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
LEQUERTIER TELLS US THAT BJEDIC'S VISIT TO PARIS
FEBRUARY 16-18 REFLECTS FUNDAMENTAL GOF DECISION THAT
TIME HAS COME TO FORGET ABOUT INCREASINGLY OUTDATED
FRENCH POSTURE OF "QUIET IRRITATION" WITH YUGOSLAVIA
DATING BACK TO GENERAL DE GAULLE'S ANNOYANCE OVER TITO'S
BEHAVIOR OVER ALGERIA. RISKS OF YUGOSLAV INSTABILITY
DURING OR FOLLOWING SUCCESSION OBVIOUSLY OUTWEIGH SUCH
OLD PIQUES, BOTH IN BALKAN AND IN EAST-WEST AND MEDI-
TERRANEAN CONTEXT. A SUBSIDIARY FACTOR MILITATING IN
SUPPORT IMPROVED RELATIONS WAS FACT THAT FIRST CSCE
REVIEW CCNFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE IN BELGRADE IN 1977,
AN EVENT TO WHICH GISCARD CLEARLY ATTACHES IMPORTANCE.
NEW IMPETUS HAD ITS ORIGIN
IN GISCARD MESSAGE DELIVERED TO TITO BY SAUVAGNARGUES
LAST MAY. GISCARD THEN HAD VERY CONSTRUCTIVE TALK WITH
TITO AT HELSINKI, WHICH PAVED WAY FOR PRESENT DECISION
TO RESUME REGULAR ACTIVE CONTACTS.

3. FOR ALL THESE REASONS GOF HAS DECIDED IN LAST MONTHS
ON SERIES OF STEPS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS AND TO BOLSTER
STABILITY IN AND SECURITY OF YUGOSLAVIA. THESE WILL
INCLUDE EFFORTS (A) TO GIVE "MORE IMPORTANCE" TO YUGO-
SLAVIA, PARTICULARLY BY INTENSIFYING AND RAISING LEVEL
OF MUTUAL VISITS; (B) TO TAKE STEPS LEADING TOWARD AN
IMPROVED ECONOMIC BALANCE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES;
(C) TO SUPPORT CERTAIN YUGOSLAV EFFORTS WITH RESPECT TO
THE EEC; AND (D) TO RESUME MORE SIGNIFICANT ARMS SALES
TO BELGRADE, ONCE CERTAIN "RESIDUAL RESERVATIONS" ON
PART OF FRENCH MILITARY HAVE BEEN OVERCOME.

4. VISITS: MAIN PURPOSE OF PRIME MINISTER BJEDIC'S
VISIT WILL BE TO SET OFF THIS NEW CHAIN OF VISITS AND
INITIATIVES, WHICH WILL MOST LIKELY INCLUDE A REASONABLY
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EARLY GISCARD TRIP TO YUGOSLAVIA. LEQUERTIER NOTED
THAT NO FRENCH PRESIDENT HAS "EVER" BEEN IN YUGOSLAVIA,
OR AT LEAST NOT SINCE WORLD WAR TWO, EVEN THOUGH TITO
WAS IN PARIS IN 1956 AND AGAIN IN 1971. LAGGING PACE OF
RELATIONSHIP FURTHER ILLUSTRATED BY FACT THAT LAST EX-
CHANGE OF VISITS AT PRIME MINISTERIAL LEVEL WAS IN '69
AND '71 RESPECTIVELY.

5. ECONOMIC RELATIONS: LEQUERTIER SAID FRENCH ALSO HOPE TO ASSIST YUGOSLAVIA WITH WHAT HE EXPECTS WILL BE "FAIRLY GENEROUS" UNDERTAKINGS TO HELP IMPROVE COMMERCIAL BALANCE, PRIMARILY THROUGH INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION PROJECTS. SIMILARLY, FRANCE PLANS "STUDY FURTHER" THE PROBLEM OF YUGOSLAV IMMIGRANTS, I.E., IN DECIDING NOT TO SEND THEM BACK WHEN UNNEEDED IN FRANCE, IN SPITE OF CURRENT HIGH LEVELS FRENCH UNEMPLOYMENT.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 02295

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FRENCH ARE AND WILL CONTINUE TO CHAMPION ASPECTS OF THE YUGOSLAV CAUSE AT THE EEC, I.E., IN AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL JOINT WORKING GROUPS. FRENCH HAVE ALSO BEEN HELPING BELGRADE TO OVERCOME FRG OPPOSITION FOR LARGE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK LOANS FOR AUTOROUTE AND OTHER PROJECTS, WHICH WE GATHER HAVE JUST BEEN APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE. THESE WERE AMONG SUBJECTS
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DISCUSSED BY JANKO SMOLE WITH KEY FRENCH ECONOMIC MINISTERS DURING FORMER'S TECHNICAL VISIT LAST WEEK.

6. MILITARY SALES: LASTLY LEQUERTIER SAID BOTH QUAI AND ELYSEE ARE AWARE OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE YUGOSLAVIA'S MILITARY NEEDS AT THIS JUNCTURE. THERE HAVE BEEN VIRTUALLY NO WORKING CONTACTS BETWEEN FRENCH AND YUGOSLAV MILITARY FOR LAST FIVE OR SIX YEARS. RECENTLY A YUGOSLAV ARMS SPECIALIST PRESENTED THEIR CASE AND MADE A SERIES OF SPECIFIC REQUESTS, INCLUDING REQUESTS FOR VERY SOPHISTICATED FRENCH EQUIPMENT. QUAI HAS ALREADY SUCCEEDED IN OVERCOMING TO SOME EXTENT THE STILL CONSIDERABLE RESERVE OF FRENCH MILITARY VIS-A-VIS SALES TO YUGOSLAVIA, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS MORE ADVANCED ITEMS. QUAI DEFINITELY INTENDS TO CONTINUE THIS EFFORT AND IS CONFIDENT THAT EVEN MORE FAVORABLE ATTITUDE WILL RESULT. LEQUERTIER DID NOT ELABORATE ON TYPES OF EQUIPMENT REQUESTED BY YUGOSLAVIA OR HOW SALES WOULD BE FINANCED.

7. IN THIS CONNECTION LEQUERTIER SAID IT WOULD HELP QUAI TO HAVE MORE AUTHORITATIVE INFORMATION ON STATE OF US EFFORTS VIS-A-VIS YUGOSLAVIA, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS CONFLICTING PRESS ACCOUNTS OF POSSIBLE NEW US MILITARY SALES.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: SINCE CONTINUING EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON US AND FRENCH EFFORTS IN YUGOSLAVIA MAY WELL BE POSSIBLE, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD CLEARLY BE IN OUR INTEREST TO PROVIDE QUAI WITH SUITABLE VERSION OF INFORMATION REQUESTED PARAGRAPH 7.

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